

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 13, 2008, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

By means of the present amendment, the current Abstract has been deleted and substituted with the enclosed New Abstract which better conforms to U.S. practice. Further, the specification has been amended for better conformance to U.S. practice and to correct a certain informality.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-6 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as for better form including beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Such amendments to claims 1-6 were not made in order to address issues of

patentability and Applicants respectfully reserve all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by EP 1 109 15 A1 (Ishii). Claims 1-2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by EP 0 910 078 A2 (Nakaoki). Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Nakaoki. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-8 are patentable over Ishii and Nakaoki for at least the following reasons.

Ishii is directed to an optical device having a coil unit 46 located over a coil supporting substrate 44 shown in FIGs 8-9. The coil unit 46 includes a magnetic core 48 and a thin film coil 48 embedded in an insulating layer 49. Laser light travels through a light transmitting hole 47a of the magnetic core 48, as recited on column 17, lines 25-28. As clearly shown in FIGs 8-9, the coil unit 46 has uniform thickness and is around the hole 47 which exposes the coil supporting substrate 44.

Nakaoki shows in FIG 1 a magnetic head 1 that includes a core 20, and a coil 21 mounted on a slider 22, as recited on column 10,

lines 2-4. As clearly shown in FIG 1 and recited on column 10, lines 15-16, a projecting magnetic pole p1 stands at the center of the core 20.

In stark contrast, the present invention as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 7-8, amongst other patentable elements recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein the coil holder has a first thickness away from the center of the coil and a second thickness at or around the center, the first thickness being larger than the second thickness.

These features are nowhere taught or suggested in Ishii and Nakaoki, alone or in combination. Rather, Ishii discloses a coil unit 46 with uniform thickness; while Nakaoki discloses a projecting magnetic pole p1 at the center of the core 20, thus having a thickness away from the center which is smaller than the thickness at the center.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 7-8 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted

that claims 2-6 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By *Dan Halajian*
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101